

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096882

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO MEETING ON DECLARATION ON RACE AND
RACIAL PREJUDICE

REFS: A) PARIS 10058 (REPEATED TO INFO. POSTS);
B) PARIS 11276 (REPEATED TEL AVIV)

1. DEPT. APPRECIATES RECEIPT OF REFTELSA AND B. PERM DEL'S
REPORT ON SUBJECT CONFERENCE WILL BE OF CONSIDERABLE HELP
TO US IN PLANNING STRATEGY FOR ENSURING THAT RES. 3379 IS
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NOT INJECTED INTO DRAFT DECLARATION AT GENERAL CONFERENCE
THIS FALL.

2. DEPT. TAKES PERM DEL'S POINT THAT M'BOW AND AFRICANS
PROMISED ONLY THAT DRAFT DECLARATION WOULD CONTAIN NO
REFERENCE, DIRECT OR INDIRECT, TO RES. 3379. HOWEVER, WE
ASSUMED FROM THIS THAT IF PUSH CAME TO SHOVE THEY WOULD BE

PREPARED TO JOIN US IN VOTING AGAINST ANY SUCH LANGUAGE. IN SHORT, WE REGARDED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO VOTE WITH US AS A TEST OF THE CREDIBILITY OF THEIR ASSURANCE THAT 3379 WOULD NOT APPEAR IN THE DECLARATION AND WERE THEREFORE GREATLY DISTRESSED TO LEARN FROM THE DELEGATION THAT THE AFRICANS WOULD ABSTAIN ON THE BRACKETED LANGUAGE CONTAINING AN INDIRECT REFERENCE TO 3379 IF WE PRESSED FOR A VOTE.

3. IN OUR PLANNING FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE, DEPT.'S PRINCIPAL CONCERN, OF COURSE, IS LIKELY POSITION OF AFRICANS ON 3379 ISSUE AND EXTENT TO WHICH WE CAN COUNT ON THEIR SUPPORT. PARA 1 OF REF B INDICATES THAT ARABS JUDGED THEIR CHANCES BETTER IN FALL THAN IN MARCH. AFRICANS MAY HAVE DISCOURAGED ARABS FROM PRESSING MATTER TO VOTE IN MARCH BY THREATENING TO VOTE AGAINST THEM, EVEN WHILE LETTING US KNOW THAT WE, ALSO, COULD NOT COUNT ON THEIR SUPPORT IF WE PRESSED THE POINT. IF THIS WAS AFRICANS' STRATEGY, IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER IT WOULD WORK THIS FALL WHEN ARABS MAY FEEL FORCED TO TAKE A FINAL STAND. KEY TEST OF WHETHER THERE WAS "ANY AFRO-ARAB DEAL THAT MIGHT PROVE AWKWARD FOR US IN NOVEMBER" (PARA 7 OF REF A) WILL BE AFRICANS' WILLINGNESS TO RENEW THE ASSURANCES THEY GAVE US IN MARCH THAT DECLARATION WOULD CONTAIN NO REFERENCE TO 3379. (WE ASSUME THAT PARA 9, REF B, REFERENCE TO "POSSIBILITY THAT THE ARABS" WILL AGREE TO INCORPORATION OF AN INDIRECT REFERENCE TO 3379" CONFIDENTIAL

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IS INTENDED TO READ "AFRICANS.")

4. DEPT. WAS SURPRISED AND CONCERNED BY PERM DEL'S REPORT THAT OTHER MEMBERS OF INFORMATION GROUP (IG) MIGHT HAVE PARTICIPATED IN CONSENSUS SUPPORT OF A DRAFT THAT HAD INDIRECT REFERENCE TO 3379. PERM DEL REQUESTED TO URGE IG TO REVIEW PARIS MEETING AND TO ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH PRECISELY WHERE IG MEMBERS STAND ON THIS FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE. WE HAD BEEN WARNED BY PERM DEL THAT WEO'S WOULD NOT JOIN US IF WE WERE TO WALK OUT ON AN INDIRECT REFERENCE TO 3379 BUT HAD ASSUMED WE WOULD HAVE SUBSTANTIAL IF NOT SOLID SUPPORT FOR BREAKING CONSENSUS.

5. SIMILARLY, WE WERE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT EE'S HAD CONSIDERED ABSTAINING ON 3379 ISSUE, EVEN THOUGH THEY LATER DECIDED TO VOTE NO (PARA 3 OF REF A). WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFO. PERM DEL HAS ON THIS, INCLUDING SOURCE OF REPORTS, AND PERM DEL'S VIEWS RE LIKELY EE POSITION AT GENERAL CONFERENCE.

6. AS AID IN CONSIDERING POSSIBLE MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES, DEPT. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING LIST OF CONFERENCE

PARTICIPANTS ASAP. IN ADDITION, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE,
WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE PERM DEL'S ANALYSIS OF THE ROLE
PLAYED BY EACH OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PARTICIPANTS IN
EACH GEOGRAPHICAL REGION. CHRISTOPHER

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